

thanks of my cat Mace for two Christmas presents and I make this announcement, while I am not quite sure who the givers are, but I can guess. Nevertheless, if this corner gets somewhat odoriferous, before the evening is over, you will know why. *(Laughter.)*

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Hopkins.

DELEGATE HOPKINS: Mr. Chairman, I have been asked by a number of people on the floor to announce that the minority party no longer has to hold its caucuses in the phone booth. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Delegate Powers, Chairman of the Committee on Calendar and Agenda.

DELEGATE POWERS: I move that the convention resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(The motion was seconded.)

THE PRESIDENT: All in favor signify by saying Aye; contrary, No. The Ayes have it and it is so ordered.

(Whereupon, at 8:25 P.M., the Convention resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole.)

(The mace was removed by the Sergeant-at-Arms.)

PLENARY SESSION

DECEMBER 6, 1967—8:25 P.M.

PRESIDENT H. VERNON ENEY,
PRESIDING

THE CHAIRMAN: The Committee will please come to order.

We have under consideration Committee Recommendation S&E-2.

Amendment K will be Amendment No. 1.

The Clerk will read the amendment.

READING CLERK: Amendment No. 1 to Committee Recommendation S&E-2 by Delegates Rybczynski, Baumann, Cardin, Frederick, E. Miller, D. Murray, and Soul:

On page 1 section 1, Eligible Voters in Federal, State and County Elections, in line 9 strike out the word "nineteen" and insert in lieu thereof the word "twenty-one".

THE CHAIRMAN: The amendment is submitted by Delegate Rybczynski and seconded by the other sponsors.

The Chair recognizes Delegate Rybczynski to speak to the amendment.

While Delegate Rybczynski is preparing to speak, let me remind you that the procedure on the amendment now before you will be to debate it, to consider an amendment to be offered by Delegates Hutchinson and Schloeder, to change the age twenty-one to eighteen and then an amendment to change the age to twenty, and following that to vote on the amendment as it may or may not be amended as opposed to the Committee Recommendation.

Delegate Rybczynski.

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: Mr. Chairman, at this time I will call on Delegate Cardin and allot her five minutes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Cardin.

DELEGATE CARDIN: Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates, we are probably at one of the most emotional issues before us at the Convention. When we play a numbers game tonight, it will be a most serious one and one sponsored by the State with its full authority.

The question is why not twenty-one?

The Committee Report would have you believe that twenty-one is not a magic number. I agree it is not magical, but it has tremendous powers. The number twenty-one opens the door for any male who wishes to marry without parental consent. The number twenty-one opens the door for anyone who wants to sign a contract and be the sole bearer of that responsibility. The number twenty-one permits one to place a \$2 bet at the parimutuel window. The number twenty-one allows you to wave a voter registration card to get a drink. The number twenty-one is not identified only with voting.

I rise to speak to this not because I think twenty-one is holy, but because I think the entire aura of adult responsibility rests upon our decision tonight. This is what we will decide.

Is there a more responsible act than that of casting a ballot, a ballot which could affect the outcome of your government and mine, a ballot which can change the State? Our Constitution will read that by a vote of the people we may change our entire form of government.

It is this simple thing that you are about to discuss and vote on. The ballot is vital. Is it as vital as buying an automobile? Is it as vital as signing a contract? I maintain it is more vital than either of those and yet when the Committee was asked to vote on lowering the age of respon-